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Extracts from the minutes of a
court martial held on board the
Diomedé at Speersness the 29th & 30th
 October 1798 for the Trial of John
 Wright and George Tomms two
 private Marines belonging to the
 said ship for mutinous conduct &c.

"Thomas Griffiths a private Marine
 "belonging to the Diomedé was sworn.

Question by
 the Prosecutor } "Do you know that the Prisoners
 "took or offered any oath or oaths to
 "others?"

Answer: "Yes, They did both to me."

2^d "What was the nature of that oath?"

Ans: "To carry the ship into an Enemy's
Port."

2^d "Do you know that the Prisoners
 "were united, or that they had any
 "correspondence with Societies united
 "for Treasonable purposes, on shore
 "or on board?"

Ans: "Yes, they were corresponding with
Societies at Nottingham."

2^d "What was the nature & substance
 "of what the Prisoners said relative
 "to those Societies?"

Ans: "They said if I would agree with
 "them, I should have money to sup-
 "port me from Nottingham."

2^d "Did you ever read any letters
 "addressed to the prisoners from Not-
 "tingham?"

Ans:

Ans. Yes, one.

Q. What was the purport of that letter?

Ans. It was that Lord Cornwallis had
gone into Ireland, and they hoped he
would meet with a fatal blow before
he came back. The letter was from
a brother of Geo. Tomms, dated at
Nottingham and addressed to him.
Geo Tomms (the Prisoner) shew'd me
his letter.

Q. Was there any thing else in the letter
relative to any revolution taking
place in England?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear the prisoners say
that they expected a revolution would
take place in England?

A. Yes, I heard them both say so, if
there should come a peace.

Q. Did you ever hear either of the
prisoners purpose or devise an insur-
rection in the Doomed?

Ans. Yes Tomms the prisoner said if
three parts of the Ships Company
would hold with them.

Q. Did you ever hear any disloyal
toasts given, and were they given by
the prisoners, and what were the toasts?

A. I heard Tomms drink a health
that may the blessings of liberty never
flourish 'til they are washed in the
blood of death spots.

Q. "Do you know if the Prisoners which
"belonged to any Corresponding Society
"at Nottingham?"

A. "No."

Q. "Did the prisoners express a wish
"or desire that a Revolution might
"take place?"

A. "Yes both of them."

Q. "Did you see a signature to the
"letter you have mentioned that
"Tomms received from Nottingham,
"and what was the signature?"

A. "I saw the name of Tomms, but
"I don't know recollect the Christian
"name. It was from his brother at
"Nottingham. The prisoner told me
"it was from his brother. The letter
"began Dear Brother or Loving Bro-
"ther."

Serjeant Daniel Alexander was
sworn.

Q. "Did you ever hear either of the
"prisoners propose or devise an
"intervention in the ship?"

A. "I heard George Tomms drink
"two Healths. The one was, May the
"blessings of liberty never flourish
"till they are washed in death spots.
"The other was Ryland's Ball - which

is the beginning of it, but I don't know
exactly the remainder. I remarked to
it, that it was not friendly to Govern-
ment.

Q. Did Griffiths tell you anything
further of the Prisoners plan?

A. Yes, he said they had correspond-
ence by writing somewhere in the
country, but he did not say where.
Griffiths told me it was a disguised
correspondence, and that their
wives and families were to be
supported from the country.

James Hughes a Private Marine
was sworn -

Q. Did you ever hear the Prisoners
express anything about a revolu-
tion in the country?

A. I heard Tomms say he would
not belong out of France, for that
he was of three trades, and a great
deal of money was to be got by a
man who was of three trades.

The foregoing are faithful Extracts from the
minutes of the before mentioned Court Martial
taken by me

Benjamin Judge Advocate
on the occasion.

Shewell 30 Oct 1794

30 October 1798

John Wright and George Tomms
were put upon their defence.

John Wright said (among other things)
"he had enlisted in Leicester about
"six weeks only before he joined the
"Diomedes. That he was by trade
"a Baker and Maltster. That he was
"at Nottingham about nine months
"ago. That he knew no body there.
"That he had lived at Birmingham
"and knew Mr Ryland a Wire Manu-
"facturer there."

George Tomms said he had a
"brother living at Nottingham, and
"that he knew only one other person
"there Mr. John King of Norrow Marsh
"Nottingham."

Tomms produced a written
defence of which the following is
an Extract. -

"About the 6th of September or
"the 8th as I was at dinner under the
"Hall deck, Griffiths asked me how the
"people of Nottingham went on. I
"asked him what people, or if he had
"any Person there that he knew or was
"acquainted with, he said no, his reason

for

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" for asking me this Question was that
" he had heard there was many people
" there that was against the war, and
" he said that there was a great many
" at Birmingham of the same mind,
" and in addition to this conversation
" he said he knew one Mr Ryland, that
" had persuaded several men to go
" into the government service, even
" as far as the East & West Indies in
" order to discover the state of affairs
" belonging to the service, and had also
" been curious enough to buy several
" of, from the East Indies and different
" parts at the considerable sum of
" several hundred pounds, and that
" Mr Ryland & his friends was acquaint-
" ed with several members of Parlia-
" ment, who had assisted in the business,
" and he also added that the people
" in connection with Mr Ryland, fre-
" quented particular public houses, once
" or twice a week to conduct or manage
" or settle their affairs, and he likewise
" added that he was one of their society
" and he told me that the sign they knew
" each other by was by raising the left
" hand & rubbing or stroking it more
" properly, over the lower part of the
" face & nose on the left side. and he
" also said if I would write a letter and
" sign my name he would sign it

"to it and send it to Mr. Ryland, that
 "he would buy my discharge and
 "remit me money to carry me home
 "if I would join their Society, and I think
 "in part of his evidence he mentioned
 "me giving a Toast about Ryland's
 "ball, but instead of me, it was him
 "that gave that toast."

The foregoing is a faithful Extract
 from the Minutes of the before mentioned
 Court Martial taken by me

Wm. Stow Judge Adv.
 on the occasion.

The same

30. Octob. 1798 -

Admiralty Office, 2 Nov 1798

Sir,

In addition to my Letter to
you of yesterday's date, I am commanded
by my Lords Commissioners of the
Admiralty to transmit to you, for the
information of the Duke of
Portland, the substance of the
Examination of Thomas Griffiths
a private Marine on board His
Majesty's Ship Bionede.

I am

Sir,

Your most humble Servant

Edw. Knowles

William Wickham Esq

Heal, Smith,

The Informant of Thomas
Griffiths a Private Marine
on board His Majesty's Ship
Diomedes who upon his Oath said
That he was born at Upper Arley

in the County of Shropshire is twenty two years
of age was Apprenticed to and served his full time
to Richard Bacon of the same Place. That on the 16th August 1795 he enlisted with
Sergeant Turner at Aley Wake in the County
of Shropshire to serve as a private Soldier in
the Oxford Fencible Light Bagnos. That after
serving in that Regiment about Eight Months his
discharge was purchased by his Father with
whom he returned to Arley and worked at his
Business of Frankelting or Bucket making.
That he continued with his Father till the latter
end of January 1798 when he enlisted with
Sergeant White of the Chatham Division of
Marines at Kidderminster in the County of
Worcester where the Informant had been
some Days upon Business. That he joined the
Division at Chatham and remained there
until he was embarked on board the
Diomedes of Fifty Guns at the Nore on
the 28th June last. That he was at Sea in
the said Ship cruising in the North Sea
(occasionally coming to Anchor) from that time
until she came to Sheerness about the
middle of this Month. That during the
said Cruise he mixed with John
Wright, George Tomons, Michael Gogan

company of Sumner - when after they had
at sea over a few weeks as this Sumner
... up about four or five
in his berth next to the Gun Room on the
... Sumner came down and joined him
that they began talking about their respective
Countries when Sumner asked him if he had
ever been at Nottingham to which the Informant
replied - No - Sumner then asked him if he
was a Republican to which the informant
said he did not understand the meaning of
the word Republican to which Sumner replied that he was
and so was Wright and then
the Informant said he would become one that
could recommend him to some very good
Gentlemen at Nottingham who would support
him after he had got his discharge which
Sumner supposed the Informant would apply
for as he had been captured by falling off
the gangway and done no duty upon Deck
several weeks - the Informant gave no other
answer to Sumner than merely saying he
consider of it upon which Sumner went to
Deck leaving the Informant below in
berth - That after the Hancock was
that evening as the Informant with the
Alexander and John Wright were sitting
in the berth Sumner came down again
into the berth Sumner

with Wright, upon which Wright ordered
 and then Wright and Thomas shook each other
 in the left hand. This Thomas had in his
 conversation with the Informant,
 explained to him was the state between
Republicans and that it was over to go
to Nottingham. he would find that these
Republicans shook each other by the
hand and that he the Informant, would
 know the Republicans from the Churchmen
 that being Saturday Night and having from
 the night before saved their allowance of
 wine they sat drinking and the following
amongst other toasts were said by Thomas
never flourish till
washed with Death Shells. then by the Sergeant
Man the men in the room were
to hunt
swamp Hell with the National Convention of
France and afterwards burn the Brecons.
 The Informant recollects something but
 imperfectly: another toast which was drunk
 1. Right - It was about Rylands's Ball -
 which induced the Informant to ask if it
 Ryland of Birmingham to who
 said - yes - he is the person who supplies
 parts with arms - That from this time till
 about the middle of August Thomas as
 upon the subject of making a Party on
 board the ship for the purpose of seizing

Informant would join them. He

Informant to do so for
hope of getting something particular
Tomms never actually rejected
but rather gave him reasons
in time he might be brought to join him
but about the middle of August as the Informant
was looking out of the Port of the Birth Tomms
came to him and proposed in a very
manner that he, the Informant should
join in seizing the Ship and carrying her
into an Enemy's Port which he proceeded
to do and from that time Tomms was
constantly abusing the Informant.

This Informant further states
that while they were at sea about the beginning
of September a Galleon joined them
brought for the Officers and Ships company
Tomms by this conveyance received one
asked the Informant to lend him a room
to pay for it. Tomms agreed
it to Wright to read at which Informant
Informant had to carry Lieutenant Belth
and Belth up into the Ward Room
Therefore left Wright and
Letter in the Birth. After putting on
Lieutenant Belth the Informant
below to his birth where
and Wright and the former putting
into Informant's Hand asked him to read

which he did - Tomms at the same time,
 reman[?] ~~the letter was dated - Nottingham~~

at Nottingham. Informant recollects
 perfectly that the letter was dated - Nottingham
 - and began with - Dear Brother - or Dear
 Brother - (Informant cannot positively say
 which) and then gave an account to Tomms
 of his wife and Family and Family concerns
 and concluded as nearly as informant can-
 possibly recollect with observing that Lord
 Cornwallis was gone to Ireland and then
 (meaning as the Informant supposed and
 believed the Corresponding Society of
 Tomms had said his Brother was
 a member) hoped ~~and~~ would meet with
total blow to come back again.

Christian Name. Informant will not now
 undertake to swear to though to the best
 of his recollection it was either - William -
 or John. He is however positive as to its
 being signed - Tomms and beginning as
 he said before with - Dear Brother or
 loving Brother - and containing the aforesaid
 Paragraph relative to Lord Cornwallis
 expedition into Ireland and was subscribed
 to George Tomms Private Sec[re]tary on board
 the ship ~~the ship~~
 Reads a elsewhere.

Informant was then inter[?] and answered as follows.

Q Did you ever tell you or say in
front of Brother or any other of the
Society at Wollingham, had adopted
the employing Persons on board ships
to debauch the crews of the ships
companies?

A - No -

Q Did he ever say any thing in your hearing that
you believe such a Plan had
adopted?

A From what passed between me and Thomas I
certainly believed he was employed for the
purpose and as he told me that he could
procure men at Wollingham
who would employ him that others or other ships
might be employed by them and
convinced the man likely to me as I know
a great many men for the Marines
from Wollingham

Q Did you ever hear any other
to the (Dismal) saw any thing that made
you believe that Thomas had made
some attempt upon them as he did
you?

A I never heard and body saw any thing
this subject but Wright and Thomas
as they made a practice of
all their allowance of wine to Daniel
and — charshall of the 1st Guard
whom also they were frequently in prison
conversation I suspected that those two
were in the secret and do believe

7
 They know more of the matter than ever Tomms
 explained to me. And now I remember also
that Tomms told me Michael Gogan (our other
Informant) was a united Irishman therefore
as good as a Republican.

2 As you had been so long tampered with by Tomms
 and had determined from the beginning not to
 join with him how came you so long to delay
 making known to the Lieutenant the intention
 of Tomms to make a Party for running away
 with the ship?

A I let it alone from time to time in hopes of finding
 out the names of some of the men whom Tomms
 said had been sworn but he refused to let
 me know their names unless I would first be
 sworn myself which having positively refused
 when he proposed it to me (as I have before
 stated) I then was afraid to keep it a secret
 any longer.

Informant adds that from his
 observation of the behaviour of the Ship Company
 he really believes that Tomms and Wright had
made a considerable progress amongst them
and that if he had not made known their
intention to Lieutenant Wilkinson the greatest
danger was to be apprehended.

Sworn at Shernoff
 this 31st October 1798
 before me.

(Signed) Thomas Griffiths

(Signed)

A Graham

A Copy

To the Right Honorable William Wickham, 449
The Memorial of James Fells of Dublin, Merchant.
Sheweth.

That your Memorialist is extensively in the
Iron Trade in Dublin, and Imports several Cargoes Annually

W. Napier presents his compliments
to W. Wickham, and acknowledges him,
in answer to his Note of this date,
that on the 2^d Inst. observations were sent
to Mr. Gething, the Admiralty Broker,
to take such steps as may be proper
in releasing the Swedish Vessel Christian
Henrik.

Admiralty
5 Nov. 1798.

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Letth,
Red with
Hapell
Fleck
ney,
Stark,
support
of three
thousand
heavy
is Credit,

To the Right Honorable William Wickham,
 The Memorial of James Gilles of Dublin, Merchant.
 Sheweth.

That your Memorialist is extensively in the
 Iron Trade in Dublin, and Imports several Cargoes Annually
 from Stockholm, on his own Account.

That a Vessel called the Christiana Elizabeth,
 C. F. Bergman Master, was Chartered at Stockholm, loaded with
 Iron & Deals by Messrs Correspondents, Messrs Bohman, Hapell
 & Georges, on Messrs Account, and was Captured with a Fleet
 of Swedish Vessels, by His Majesty's Ship, the Romney,
 John Lawford Esq. Commander, about the 8th of August last,
 and now lays in the River of London.

That your Messrs has suffered
 extremely by the detention of this Cargo, (being now a period of three
months), for which Messrs has paid upwards of three thousand
Pounds: a Sum so considerable to Messrs, with other heavy
 engagements, as might have caused the destruction of his Credit,
 as a Merchant, for ever.

That your Messrs presented a

Memorial to Lord Castlereagh, on the affair, about
three Weeks ago, which Mem^t was informed had been
forwarded to you, Sir.

That Mem^t has been compelled, (to the
material injury of his Business at Home,) to come to London
to claim that, which is so very justly & fairly his Right; &
which, he can produce the Strongest possible proofs
imaginable.

That your Mem^t having assisted all in
his power to support the Government of Ireland, since
first establishment of the Yeomanry; and more particularly
during the Rebellion, by day & by Night, at the risk
of life & property; consider his case as peculiarly deserving
indulgence.

Mem^t therefore, humbly entreats, you
be so good, Sir, to cause a speedy liberation of his Goods
(a part of which is much ^{wanted} for Government use in Ireland,) &
afford him such reasonable compensation, as the heavy
injuries he has sustained, may justly entitle him to.

London Coffee House

5 Nov. 1798.